

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 909

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize Colman B. Woodhall on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and skill; and

WHEREAS, Colman B. Woodhall is one such estimable person who has served with distinction in the nuclear industry since the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, this brilliant man displayed a talent for science from a young age and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nuclear Engineering from North Carolina State University and a Master of Science degree in Nuclear Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and

WHEREAS, he has also long possessed a knack for business and holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodhall began applying his talents in the crucial nuclear industry during the 1960s; during that decade, he participated in the reactor design and nuclear fuel development for the Oconee Nuclear Power Plant; and

WHEREAS, he has since earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues in the field for the unsurpassed quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, from 1970 to 1973, he was instrumental in establishing the first complete program to recycle uranium and plutonium back into the discharging reactor; later that decade, he was one of only two industry participants in the U.S.-International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation effort on spent fuel storage and reprocessing; and

WHEREAS, a true visionary, Mr. Woodhall has been a leader in the design, licensing, and operations of nuclear spent fuel shipping casks at NAC International; this groundbreaking

work facilitated decades of safe and efficient shipment of spent nuclear fuel throughout the United States and worldwide; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, he utilized his great business acumen as a member of a partnership that acquired Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) in Erwin; since that time, his technical, financial, and management skills have been vital to the company's growth; and

WHEREAS, under his able stewardship, the company, which was already the U.S. Nuclear Navy's sole manufacturer of fuel, has recovered from a significant downsizing and greatly diversified its operations to include such endeavors as downblending weapon-grade uranium into fuel for reactors and downblending enriched uranium to extract isotopes for treating cancer, as well; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodhall directed the NFS Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility Project, a key component of nonproliferation initiatives and nuclear stockpile reductions, and his efforts resulted in the development of the Security System Design Criteria, the Security Program, the Material Control, and the Accountability Program; and

WHEREAS, in February 2004, Colman Woodhall took a well deserved retirement from NFS, but the company will continue to benefit from his wisdom and leadership, as he will serve as a member of its Board of Directors and a consultant to the company; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodhall is also an active and important part of his community and his profession, having participated in numerous worthy organizations; and

WHEREAS, he has shared his time and entrepreneurial wisdom as a Charter Member of the Advisory Board of East Tennessee State University Innovation Laboratory, a small business incubator focusing on technology companies, and as a pro bono Consultant to the Small Business Development Center at East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Woodhall is a devoted family man, the devoted husband of his beloved wife, Louise, and a proud and loving father, stepfather, and grandfather; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, he is an active member of Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church, where he is a member of the Finance Committee; and

WHEREAS, Colman B. Woodhall exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Woodhall has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, and he is worthy of special recognition from this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Colman B. Woodhall for his outstanding service in the nuclear industry and express to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.